CUP.21.g.42/66

ADDRESS TO THE KING.

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NOTICE having been given that a MEETING is intended to be held in the TOWN-HOUSE in KNARESBROUGH, on Tuesday the 17th Inst. for the purpose of addressing HIS MAJESTY on the late insult offered him, at the opening of the present Session of Parliament; a wellwisher to the King and Constitution takes the liberty of recommending, on this occasion, an address, similar to the following, which was lately sent from YORK.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

We, the Mayor and Commonalty of the City of York, in Common Council assembled, think it incumbent on us to express our abhorrence of the late very alarming Attack made upon your Majesty's person; an Attack which must have occasioned the greatest concern in the breast of every true Friend to your Majesty and the Constitution.

Whilst, as Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, we offer our Congratulations upon your Majesty's Escape from Personal injury we deem it a part of the Duty we owe your Majesty, our Country, and Ourselves, to beseech your Majesty to employ the most effectual means to procure a speedy Termination of the present disastrous War, convinced as we are, that, under the Distresses of the Kingdom, the blessings of Peace are essential to the Preservation and Permanence of our excellent Constitution, to the Happiness of your Majesty, and the Prosperity of your People.

The above, not only expresses the most cordial sentiments of Loyalty and Attachment to the King's person, but, by advising him to put an end to a most unfortunate and ruinous War, points out to him the most certain mode of regaining that degree of Popularity which he may have lost, by the ill-advised plan of continuing it. If the blessing of Peace had been restored to this country, the King would undoubtedly have met with a different reception from the People; and however we may be disposed to regret the depravity of individuals, in committing so gross an outrage upon the first magistrate, we must also lament that the oppressive conduct of Ministers, and the dictatorial ambition of P--TT, have been the sole means of driving the People to that degree of frenzy and despair, in a paroxism of which, they forgot their Allegiance to their Sovereign. At the present Crisis it is highly necessary that the King should be informed that an immediate peace is the general wish of the people: petitions for that purpose, should be echoed from one corner of the Kingdom to the other, instead of mere fulsome addresses the self-interested productions of *Time-servers* and *Sycophantic Priests*. This mad crusade, against the freedom of France, has nearly reduced us to a state of national bankruptcy, and can any individual believe that a system so profligate and arrogant can tend to anything less than a dissolution of all those governments by which it has been carried on? Why are we not warned by fatal experience? why will we not be taught that evils so enormous cannot long be endured? that if we continue in this wild career, it will require no volcano to destroy us; no thunders to blast the depopulated and enfeebled country; its own phrenzy must work its destruction. Shall we, then, or, shall we not conceive it our duty to endeavour to check this monstrous infatuation, this horrid growth of war; which has so long poured down upon us most destructive effects?

PIERRE. *Yes, a most notorious villain!*
To see the sufferings of my fellow creatures,
And own myself a man; to see our Senators
Cheat the deluded people with a shew of liberty,
Which yet they ne'er must taste of.
All that bear this are villains, and I one,
Not to rouse up at the great call of nature,
And check the growth of these domestic spoilers,
THAT MAKE US SLAVES, AND TELL US 'TIS OUR CHARTER.

Otway's Venice Preserv'd.

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